



POLICY POSITION: A HAPPIER, SAFER LIFE FOR LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS

Problem Statement

South Africa has been a continental leader in ensuring the recognition and equality of rights for people from sexual and gender minorities.

However, this is only a small but necessary victory in the broader struggle for people from the LGBTQIA+ community to live happy and fulfilling lives, free from judgment, violence and discrimination.

Prejudice against LGBTQIA+ people still runs deep in our communities, and finds its routes in the physical and spiritual colonialism that forced orthodox, Western stereotypes onto the African population.

LGBTQIA+ people are victims of bullying from a young age, and are also distinctly vulnerable to violence, homelessness, corrective rape and higher rates of HIV, mental illness and suicide. They are excluded from the workplace, sports and other parts of social life.

Everyone in this country should feel safe and happy to be who they are and to love who they love, without judgment or fear. All people, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, should be supported to reach their full potential.

Solutions

Health

- We will reduce health inequalities for LGBTQIA+ people, that result in difficulty accessing healthcare services and especially gender identity clinics;
- We will take action to improve mental healthcare for LGBTQIA+ people, and partner with organisations who have skills and experience in dealing with LGBTQIA+ issues;

Law and Diplomacy

- A full prohibition on conversion therapy, including by faith-based organisations;
- A GOOD government will advocate for change on the African continent, using diplomatic efforts to insist on the removal of any discriminatory laws operating against LGBTQIA+ people in Africa;
- Re-design the gender recognition process, so that it makes the process less bureaucratic and intrusive;

- Given that LGBTQIA+ people meet partners online more than other groups, we need to ensure that their safety is protected.

Party-level

- GOOD will elect an LGBTQIA+ representative to champion the development of LGBTQIA+ policy, actions and activism;
- GOOD will continue to take pride in having a high proportion of LGBTQIA+ leaders and public representatives in our party.

Childhood development

- We will unveil an LGBTQIA+ Hate Crime Schools Pack in partnership with young LGBTQIA+ people and identity-based bullying professionals to tackle bullying in schools which disproportionately impacts young people, and sets the tone for depression and other mental health issues that they typically face in their lives;
- We will update the syllabuses in junior and high schools, from an appropriate grade, to support teaching that is age appropriate and relevant to all pupils, whatever their developing sexual orientation or gender identity. We will ensure that schools have access to the guidance and counselling they need to support LGBTQIA+ pupils
- We will improve our understanding of the impacts on children and adolescents of changing their gender, to ensure that treatment is evidence-based and in the best interests of the child;
- We will ensure that support is available for LGBTQIA+ students who are victims of hate crimes and online harassment.

Representation

- We will work across the public, private, and voluntary sectors to improve the representation of LGBTQIA+ people in public life, championing role models and giving people the confidence to be themselves in public;
- We will work to address harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms;
- We will work to increase LGBTQIA+ inclusion in sports and physical activity, providing expert help to sporting organisations to increase the participation of LGBTQIA+ people in sports and physical activity, and tackle stereotypes in sporting circles that makes people from the LGBTQIA+ community feel excluded or unwelcome.